



UXBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

EQUITY · RESPECT · RESPONSIBILITY · COLLABORATION

Frequently Asked Questions

UPS Town Hall Meeting ~ August 5, 2020

HEALTH CONCERNS:

We had several questions regarding managing health conditions in our schools. Below are links to two documents that we believe cover most of those questions. The first is "[Protocols for responding to COVID-19 scenarios in school, on the bus, or in community settings](#)". The second document is a [memorandum from Uxbridge Health Director Dr. Kristin Black](#) to the Uxbridge School committee outline the role of the Board of Health in relation to public health and the schools in particular.

SCHOOL MODELS and CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION (including ELLs, Special Education, Title I)

Below are links to **drafts** of specific school plans that we believe will answer many of the questions posed last evening. Please be advised that these are **drafts** and are still a work in progress.

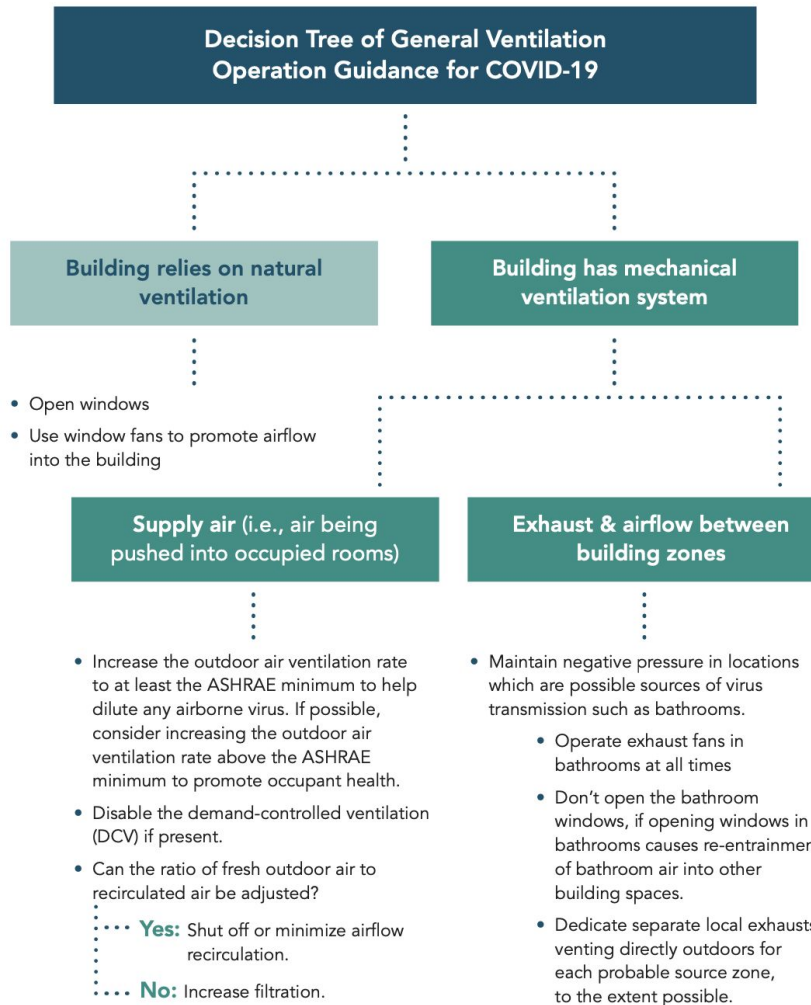
Draft - [Taft Models](#)

Draft - [Whitin Models](#)

Draft - [UHS Models](#)

HVAC/VENTILATION

Uxbridge Public schools have mechanical ventilation systems which push outdoor air into classrooms while air in the space is exhausted simultaneously, subsequently, air is being circulated. We are maximizing air ventilation rates, per guidance, disabling demand control ventilation allowing systems to run while occupants are in the building. To minimize air recirculation all unit ventilators are in the open position. Bathroom exhaust systems are run at all times.



Air quality/ventilation control areas we have recently addressed and assessed include:

1. Uxbridge Public School Engineering Controls have been prioritized to reduce long-range airborne transmission.
2. The district has spent \$189,954.20 on HVAC/exhaust systems repair and upgrade in FY20 and \$319,597.84 in HVAC in FY19.
3. All system dampers are open to maximize ventilation with outdoor air.
4. During preventive maintenance at Taft and Whitin, DTCl inspected all dampers for proper positioning and adjusted damper positions if necessary.
5. The High School, the updated Direct Digital Control (DDC) system constantly measures carbon dioxide levels and provides automatic notification alarms if carbon dioxide levels are low (energy being wasted) or high (lacking proper ventilation).
6. The HVAC direct digital control system at the High School was upgraded, for the first time since opening in 2012, in October of 2019 at a cost of \$35,000. The controls system will be inspected and upgraded annual during preventive maintenance.
7. A direct digital controls system for the physical plant at Taft was installed in August, 2019 at a cost of \$60,000. Further expansion of the DDC system is planned in future years, ultimately providing constant carbon dioxide monitoring and alarm notification for ventilation issues.
8. Ventilation of the ground floor athletics wing at the High School was made operational following years of being in a state of disrepair. Resolution required many inspections, repairs and maintenance orders over a period of a year, including a \$10,000 commissioning of a major HVAC unit, the Energy Recovery Ventilator (ERV-1).

9. 105 variable air volume units serving spaces throughout the High School were inspected, serviced, and repaired if necessary.
10. All HVAC equipment was made operational, including: exhaust fans, unit ventilators and many other components of a HVAC system over the past two years
11. Preventive maintenance and repairs to all HVAC and exhaust systems, including classroom unit ventilators, had been completed in June and July 2020; including the replacement of filters, switches, belts, thermostats, motors, fans, etc. as needed. Also, bearings were greased, motors were oiled and dampers adjusted. (any record of what was done in each.
12. Former Uxbridge Facility Manager Michael Belanger; Design Temperature Control, Inc.; Aalanco Service Corporation; and Logic Automation Services continue to maintain Uxbridge Public School HVAC and exhaust systems.
13. Taft had a new modern physical plant digital controls system installed with an interface to the older pneumatics in August 2019 by Logic Automation Services. This allows maintenance staff the ability to monitor and adjust the central plant, schedule pneumatic zones and collect data on the building performance.
14. WIS classroom and vestibule thermostats in need of repair were replaced in FY20. Note that thermostats control heat and not ventilation.
15. All Taft & WIS univent interiors were disassembled and cleaned and all ductwork was professionally cleaned and tested in summer of 2019.
16. Bathrooms at Taft and Whittin have exhaust systems that run constantly during the day.
17. All schools' ventilation systems are operated by time clocks which have been reconfigured to run from 6am to 6pm.

Finally, we have worked with Jose Cedeno-Laurent, author of the Schools for Health as well as the Parabola Project at Ariadne Labs and The Learning Accelerator in collaboration with the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health Healthy Buildings Program. Mr. Cedeno-Laurent is very supportive of Uxbridge Public Schools' efforts to improve air quality and promote health.

CLEANING

Uxbridge Public Schools contracts with [ABM Industries](#) for cleaning of the schools. Please see [ABM Manual for UPS](#) for information regarding cleaning methods and protocols.

Task sheets logs are maintained in three ring binders in the main administration office of each school. The following high touch items are listed on day porter's daily task sheets:

1. Door handles
2. Light switches
3. Handrails
4. Drinking fountains
5. Sink handles
6. Restroom surfaces
7. Elevator buttons

Cleaning of high-touch points is conducted three times daily.

1. Before school opens (night prior)
2. Before lunch periods
3. Immediately after lunch

The cleaning products used are **Crew** and **Virex**. Both are EPA approved.

TECHNOLOGY:

Currently each enrolled student K-7 has a chromebook assigned to them and ready for distribution. Students 8-12 will have an iPad. We are currently looking into iPads for IEP PreK students

DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

All of the guidance that school districts have received regarding reopening the schools in the fall can be found on the [DESE website](#)